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of the provisional agenda*

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISASTER AT CHERNOBYL

Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the appeal by the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the European Parliament.

I request that you circulate the text of the appeal as an official document of the General Assembly under items 78, 80 and 88 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Byelorussian SSR
to the United Nations

* A/46/150.

ANNEX

Appeal dated 27 June 1991 adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and addressed to the European Parliament

The fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy has been marked by the international community in a spirit of universal solidarity with the victims of the greatest nuclear disaster in the history of world civilization and with a fundamental reinterpretation of its lessons. The world is only now beginning to grasp the full extent of the global and regional problems caused by the Chernobyl disaster and to realize how difficult it is to predict its unprecedented consequences and its delayed effects on the health of millions of people in the affected regions of Byelorussia, the Ukraine and the western regions of the Russian Federation.

The Byelorussian SSR is the republic most affected, a fact established, in particular, in General Assembly resolution 45/190 of 21 December 1990, adopted by consensus. This fact was also widely attested at the international scientific conference held from 21 to 24 May 1991 in Vienna at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency, on the radiobiological after-effects of the Chernobyl accident.

Seventy per cent of the long-lived isotopes fell on the territory of the Byelorussian SSR and they contaminated approximately 20 per cent of the Republic's farm land and forests, which cover one quarter of its entire area. More than 2.2 million people live in the contaminated areas, constituting one fifth of the population of the Republic and representing half of all the people affected by the Chernobyl disaster in Byelorussia, Ukraine and Russia.

It has still not been possible to make an accurate assessment of the damage inflicted on the health of the population by "iodine shock" and by the effects of other short-lived isotopes during the days immediately following the accident. It has not been possible to identify those isotopes with precision. Despite differences in assessments of the radiological consequences and protective measures, the international Chernobyl project has established that a combination of the various harmful effects has led to a verified rise in the incidence of disease among the inhabitants of the affected regions of the Republic. The International Advisory Committee recommends that vigorous efforts should be made to enhance the quality of medical services and to improve the supply of medicine and of diagnostic and research equipment and materials.

In assessing the situation on the ground, the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR appeals to the European Parliament for additional special financial and technical assistance and assistance of other kinds, provided either directly or through another agreed mechanism, to help it deal with the Chernobyl-related problems in the Republic.

The Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR also associates itself with the address by the President of the USSR to the Governments of all countries and to the people of the world and with the address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the entire international community on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. We express the hope that the Byelorussian people will not be overlooked and will be accorded the essential assistance which it needs at the present time.

Any assistance provided as an act of good will on the part of the international community will be sincerely appreciated by our people and will also furnish an example of world cooperation in overcoming global disasters on our planet.